

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~-A fuel injection valve comprising:
 - a nozzle body having a nozzle body seat, and
 - a nozzle needle tightly guided in the nozzle body and incorporating a nozzle needle shaft and a nozzle needle seat,
 - ~~wherein the said~~ nozzle body seat and the nozzle needle seat together forming a sealed seat,
 - ~~wherein~~ a gap ~~[[is]]~~ provided axially in height between the sealed seat and the nozzle needle shaft, ~~[[and]]~~ wherein an outer surface of the nozzle needle runs essentially parallel to an inner surface of the nozzle body in the region of the gap.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~-A fuel injection valve according to Claim 1, wherein the gap is implemented as an elongated recess ~~[[in]]~~ between the nozzle needle and~~[[/or]]~~ the nozzle body.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~-A fuel injection valve according to Claim 1, wherein the gap adjoins a sealing edge of the nozzle needle seat.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~-A fuel injection valve according to Claim 1, wherein the sealing edge is provided on a circumferential cylindrical needle section between a nozzle needle tip and a frusto-conical body section of the nozzle needle.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~-A fuel injection valve according to Claim 4, wherein the outer surfaces of ~~[[the]]~~ a conical nozzle needle tip and ~~[[of]]~~ the frusto-conical body section of the nozzle needle each have essentially the same included angle.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~-A fuel injection valve comprising:

- a nozzle body having a nozzle body seat,
- a nozzle needle tightly guided in the nozzle body and incorporating a nozzle needle shaft and a nozzle needle seat,
- a sealed seat formed by the nozzle body seat and the nozzle needle seat,
- a gap axially in height between the sealed seat and the nozzle needle shaft, and
- an outer surface of the nozzle needle running essentially parallel to an inner surface of the nozzle body in the region of the gap.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~-A fuel injection valve according to Claim 6, wherein the gap is implemented as an elongated recess ~~[[in]]~~ between the nozzle needle and~~[[/or]]~~ the nozzle body.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~-A fuel injection valve according to Claim 6, wherein the gap adjoins a sealing edge of the nozzle needle seat.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~-A fuel injection valve according to Claim 6, wherein the sealing edge is provided on a circumferential cylindrical needle section between a nozzle needle tip and a frusto-conical body section of the nozzle needle.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~-A fuel injection valve according to Claim 9, wherein the outer surfaces of ~~[[the]]~~ a conical nozzle needle tip and of the frusto-conical body section of the nozzle needle each have essentially the same included angle.